



Challenges and Opportunities in the Pacific



Ambassador Steven McGann



Ambassadors of the South Pacific

Ambassador Teddy Taylor
Papua New Guinea, Solomons, Vanuatu

Ambassador Martha Campbell
Marshall Islands

Chargé d'affaires William Douglass
Micronesia

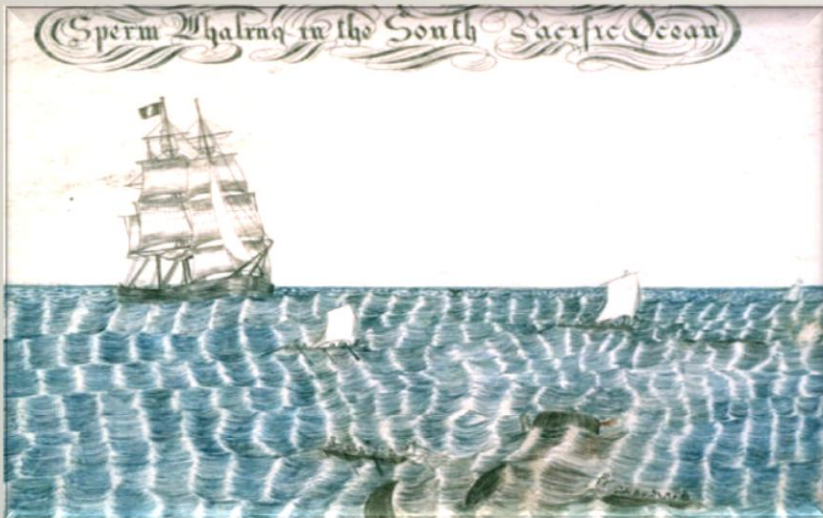
Chargé d'affaires Mark J. Bezner
Palau

Chargé d'affaires Robin L. Yeager
Samoa

The United States in the Pacific

- A history of enduring relationships
- Yankee whalers and Missionaries
- World War II alliances
- Seeking comprehensive and renewed engagement

The United States is a Pacific Power





Priorities in the Pacific

- Good Governance and Rule of Law
- Support Democracy and Human Rights
- Encourage Economic Growth and Development
- Build Capacity for Environmental Protection
- Enhance Maritime Security and Law Enforcement
- Promote U.S. Economic Interests



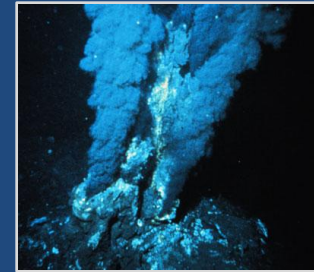
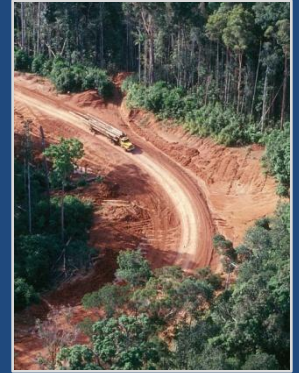
Labor



- Economies dependent on remittances
- Infrastructure degrading for lack of skilled maintenance
- Youthful demographics and high unemployment
- Need for skilled labor in Guam and Papua New Guinea
- Labor mobility a lifeline for possible environmental refugees threatened by climate change
- New regional labor officer in Suva to address these challenges

Shifting Economic Dynamics

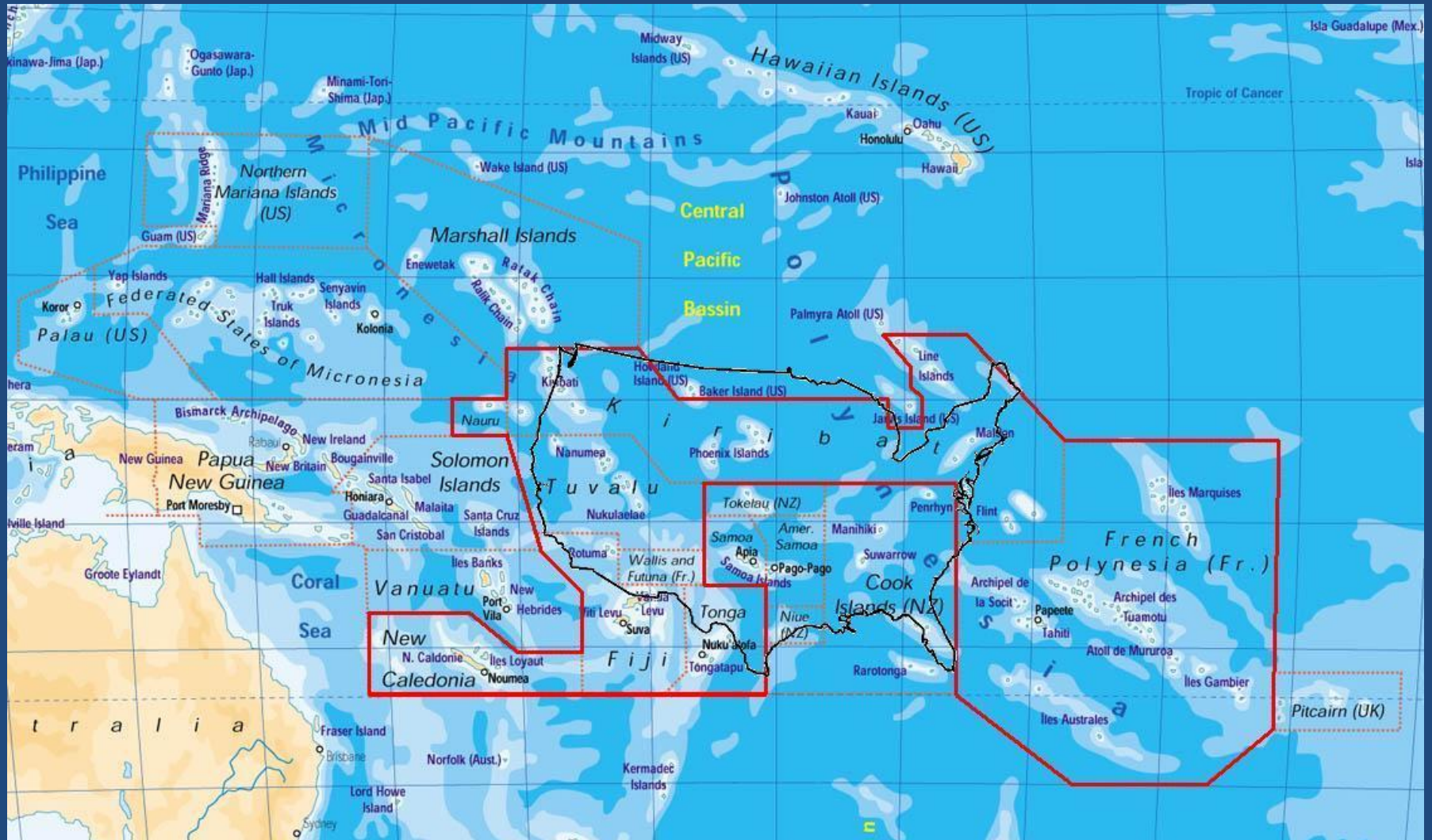
- New Development in Guam
- Resource-rich Papua New Guinea
- Untapped undersea riches
- Profound environmental challenges
- Remittances underpin economy
- Vulnerabilities persist



Embassy Suva

- Diplomatic and consular relations with five countries and three French territories
- 7.57 million square miles
- Melanesia, Polynesia, and Micronesia
- Strategically important place in the Pacific
- Regional hub supporting other missions

Area provided diplomatic or consular services by Embassy Suva



Public Diplomacy – Expanding Opportunities

- Greatly expanded exchange programs over the past two years
- Pacific islanders receiving Humphrey and Fulbright scholarships
- Musicians, artists, and speakers visiting to share American culture
- Revised website and Facebook presence reaching younger generation
- Training for journalists to promote a free and fair media

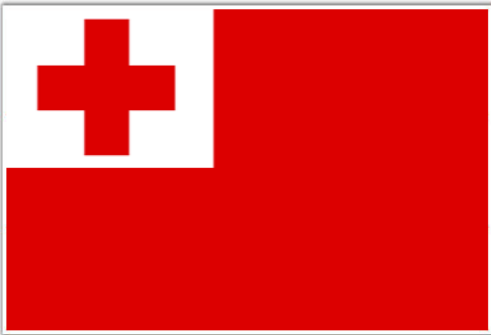
U.S. Economic Interests in the Pacific



New Embassy Compound



East side chancery. June 2009



Tonga

Tonga

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Niutoputapu

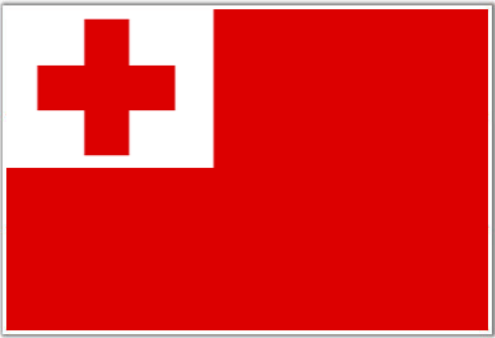
Vava'u

Ha'apai

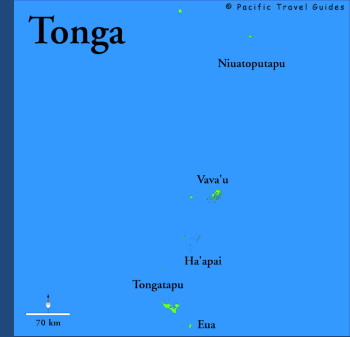
Tongatapu

Eua

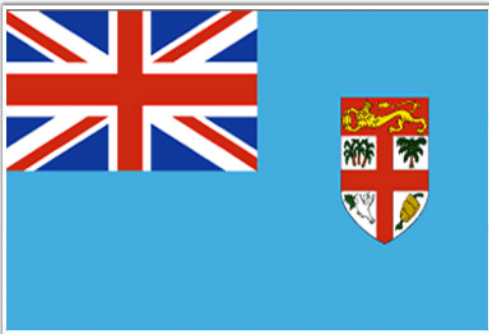




Tonga

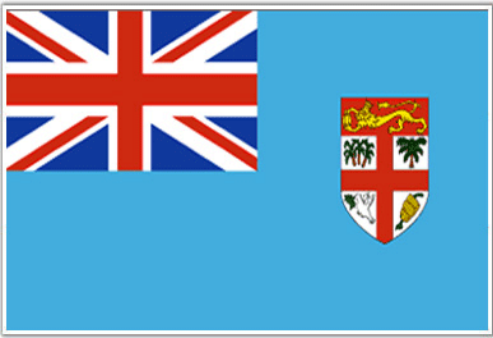


- Enhanced maritime security
- Support for international security
 - Regional Assistance Mission to the Solomon Islands
 - Security at Camp Victory, Iraq
 - Considering deployment to Afghanistan
- Taking steps toward more representative democracy

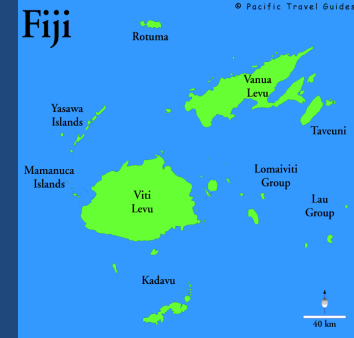


Fiji





Fiji



Three Pillars of our Policy

1. Implementing Section 508 sanctions
 - Sanctions targeted against regime
 - Assistance for elections, judiciary, and civil society
2. Protecting and promoting US interests
 - Full diplomatic relations with Suva
3. Doing no harm to the people of Fiji
 - Continued economic assistance to the people
 - Strong emphasis on disaster preparedness and relief



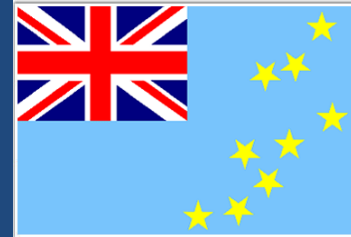
Kiribati

- Important partner in counter-terrorism and security
- Low-lying atolls in danger if sea levels rise
- Seeks to prepare for climate change through labor mobility



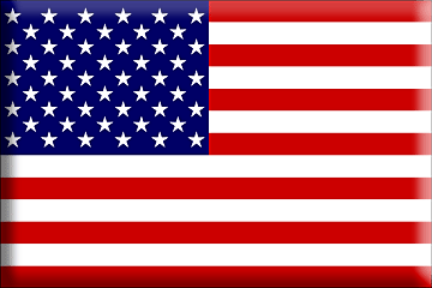
Nauru

- Phosphate mines almost depleted
- Formerly one of the wealthiest countries, now one of the poorest.
- Government taking steps to combat money-laundering and other international crimes

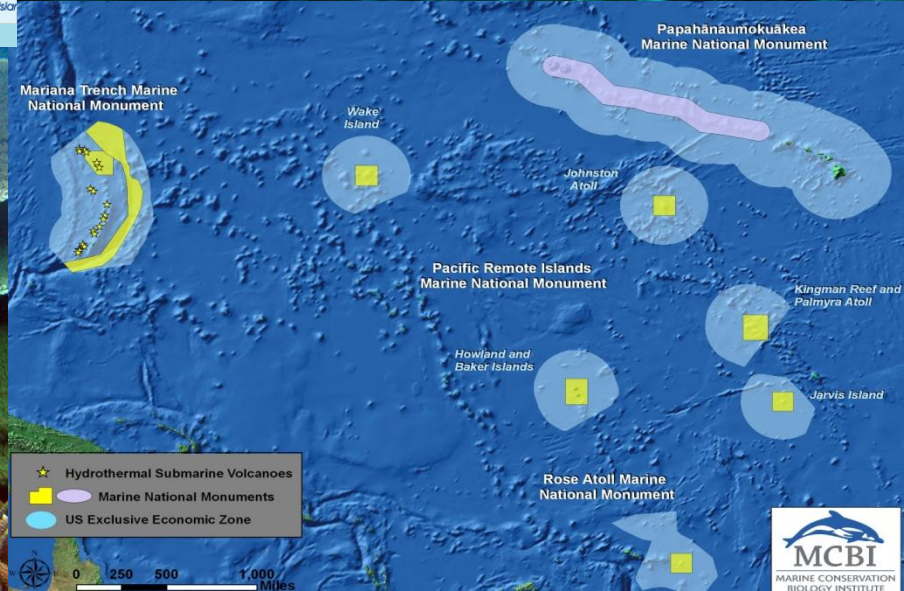
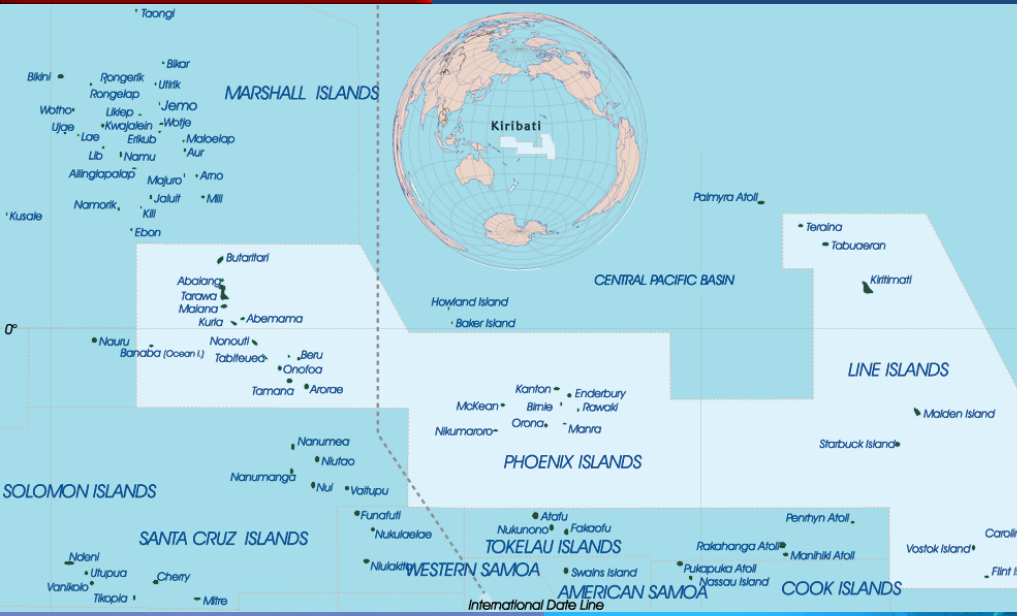


Tuvalu

- Threatened by rising sea levels
- Heavy reliance on remittances and overseas workers
- Transitioning to 100 percent renewable energy
- Seeks return of Peace Corps



Working Together To Protect Marine Reserves





U.S. – Kiribati Agreement



- EEZ of Kiribati contains valuable fisheries and the Phoenix Islands Protected Area (PIPA)
- PIPA is the second largest marine reserve in the world
- Adjacent to U.S. Pacific Remote Islands Marine National Monument
- MOU promising to work together at protecting these reserves

Global Challenges

- HIV/AIDS



- Illegal fishing



- Diabetes



- Environmental degradation



- Illegal drugs



- Climate change



- Human Trafficking



Vulnerable to Climate Change

- Sea level rise
- Disruption and destruction of terrestrial and marine ecosystems
- Saltwater intrusion into already scarce freshwater supplies
- Threats to food security
- Health threats
- Invasive species
- Climate refugees and large scale emigration
- Economic, social, and political disruption



International Organizations in the Pacific



World Bank



United Nations



Asia Development Bank



International Monetary
Fund



International Organization
for Migration



Pacific Islands Forum



- Made up of 16 independent and self-governing states in the Pacific
- 13 official Dialogue Partners, including the U.S.
- Founded in 1971
- Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat based in Suva, Fiji
- Works for economic growth, sustainable development, security, and good governance



Secretariat of the Pacific Community

Collaborating on:

- Port security
- Maritime security
- Fighting pandemic influenza
- Public health
- Natural resource management
- Food security
- Climate change

Key Regional Partners

Australia



France



New Zealand



Japan





China



- Expanded ties in the Pacific
- Resources, commercial opportunities, and alliances
- \$600 million in low-interest loans
- Need for transparency and accountability
- Truce over diplomatic recognition with Taiwan
- New opportunities for a cooperative approach



Pacific Command (PACOM)

- Humanitarian Assistance
- Disaster Preparedness/Relief
- Pacific Partnership 2009
- Information-Sharing
- Global Security
- Embassy Suva DAO



Inter-Agency Efforts for the Pacific



USAID

- Reestablish a presence in the Pacific
- Can play a vital role coordinating assistance



Millennium Challenge Corporation

- Revisit eligibility for small states
- Improves America's regional standing



Peace Corps

- Many countries happy to host volunteers
- Safe and receptive locations

Peace Corps in the Pacific



- Volunteer programs in Fiji , Tonga, Micronesia, Palau, Samoa, and Vanuatu
- In the Pacific since 1967
- 62 PCVs in Fiji
- 40 PCVs in Tonga
- Tuvalu and Nauru seeking to establish Peace Corps programs





NOAA NATIONAL OCEANIC AND
ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE



Weather: Prediction, severe storms, hurricanes, flash floods.



Climate Change: Climate Prediction Center, El Nino, National Climatic Data Center, National Snow and Ice Data Center



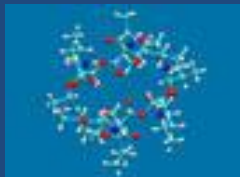
Oceans and Coasts: Fisheries and marine protected resources, Pacific Tsunami Warning Center



Satellites and Space: Earth observing systems, including GOES (Geostationary Operational Environmental Satellites) and GOOS (Global Ocean Observing System)



National Science Foundation
WHERE DISCOVERIES BEGIN



- Created in 1950
- Annual budget: 6.06 billion (FY09)
- Funds about 20% of all federally supported basic research in
 - Biological Sciences
 - Computer & Information Science & Engineering
 - Education & Human Resources
 - Engineering – including chemical, civil, mechanical
 - Geosciences – including atmospheric, earth, ocean sciences
 - Mathematical & Physical Sciences
 - Social, Behavioral & Economic Sciences



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR



- Guam
- Commonwealth of Northern Marianas Islands
- American Samoa
- Freely Associated States

Department of Homeland Security



Immigration and
Customs
Enforcement



Coast Guard



Transportation
Security Agency

U.S. Coast Guard, a critical member of the Country Team



Training



Interdiction



Search and Rescue



Port Security Inspections

U.S. Coast Guard Shiprider Agreements



Agreements in:
Cook Islands
Kiribati
Marshall Islands
Micronesia
Palau
Tonga

Prospective
Agreements:
Tuvalu
Nauru

Shiprider Agreements



- Successful shiprider agreements contribute to:
 - Protecting fishing grounds
 - Guarding the homeland
 - Better law enforcement
 - Fighting trafficking
 - Protecting the environment



Facing the 21st Century Together

- We are connected by the ocean, not separated by water
- Immense implications for national security
- The U.S cannot afford to neglect Pacific island countries
- We must work together to meet the challenges of the 21st century



